AMENDMENT IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the abstract to read as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~Disclosed are an~~ An optical fiber preform manufacturing ~~apparatus and method in which processes for shrinking and closing a deposited tube are conducted using a device suitable for those processes, which device is other than the device used in a deposition process for forming the deposited tube~~ method whereby a clad layer and a core layer is deposited on the inner surface of a preform tube~~, thereby reducing the processing time while reducing the amount of OR penetrated from the preform tube into a vitreous component~~ for forming a deposited tube. One end of the deposited tube~~, thereby achieving a reduction in OR loss. In accordance with the optical fiber preform manufacturing apparatus and method, operations are conducted which involve setting the heating temperature of~~ is shrunk and closed. The deposited tube which has a closed end is arranged extending vertically through a circular heater. A heat is applied to the deposited tube at a temperature lower than the softening point of a deposited tube, exhausting contaminants existing in the interior of the deposited tube while moving the circular heater ~~at a desired temperature, setting. The~~ the heating temperature of the circular heater is then set to a temperature not lower than the softening point of the deposited tube~~, and shrinking~~ to shrink and ~~closing~~ close the deposited tube ~~while moving the circular heater to a desired temperature~~.